Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-16 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 have been objected to. Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. With respect to claim 13, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner suggests replacing "which the bubble packet" with "which a bubble packet." Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants note that claim 13 depends from claim 1 and that claim 1 provides antecedent basis for "bubble packet." Thus, Applicants have not amended claim 13 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 1, 7 11 and 13 be withdrawn.

Rejections under §112

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

With respect to claim 1, it is asserted that the limitation "a span of packet life setting part" can be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph because it uses a non-structural term "part" coupled with functional language. Applicants have amended claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action, to recite "a span of packet life setting part including a processor that sets a span of packet life." No new matter is introduced herein.

On page 5 of the Office Action, it is asserted that the language in the last paragraph of claim 1 renders the claim indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the language and to recite that the information-processing device at the communication source is configured to receive a reply packet from the information-processing device. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, clarifies that the <u>bubble packet is used to open the port of the communication control device at the communication source</u> which receives a reply packet. Thus, claim 1, as amended, positively specifies the structure.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Namely, "transmitting a bubble packet that transmits the bubble packet" has been replaced with "transmitting the bubble packet."
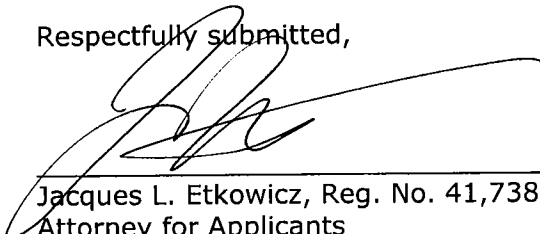
Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-16 under §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants note that the Examiner has not rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-16 except under §112, second paragraph. Because the Examiner has not rejected these claims in view of any prior art, Applicants conclude that claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11 and 13-16 are allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

DMG/fp

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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